

Biographic Data on General Valentin Antonovich Penkovskiy

Date and Place of Birth

1904, in Belorussia.

Family

His family was of the pre-revolutionary Russian nobility. He is the younger brother of Florian Antonovich Penkovskiy, a well-known and wealthy judge from Stavropol who is the grandfather of Col. Oleg Penkovskiy. Thus, General Valentin Penkovskiy is Col. Penkovskiy's great-uncle. General Penkovskiy is married and has one son.

History

In 1919 he began to work on the Soviet railways. In 1920 he entered the Soviet Army, and made a career of military service. He became an officer, and had risen to the command of a PVO (anti-aircraft) regiment in the Far East when the great purges started in 1937. Because he was from a noble family, he was arrested and imprisoned during the purge period of 1937-39. However, he was released when World War II began, and resumed service. He became a division commander, then became Chief of Staff of the 21st Army for the remainder of the war. After V.E. Day he was sent to the Far East for the brief campaign against the Japanese Kwantung Army, and remained as Chief of Staff of the Far East Military District, under the command of Malinovskiy. When Marshal Malinovskiy became Minister of Defense, General Penkovskiy became commander of the Far East MD. Then, in the fall of 1961, he became commander of the Belorussian Military District, and so far as is known still holds this position. His rank is General of the Army.

Party History

He became a member of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union in 1926. He is a member of the Central Committee of the Belorussian Communist Party, and a candidate member of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union. He is a delegate to the Supreme Soviet from Vitebsk Oblast.